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BENGALURU • TUESDAY • AUGUST 06, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

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How Sheikh Hasina fled the Ganabhaban

According to AFP's Bangladesh bureau chief Shafqul Alam, Hasina wanted to record an address to the nation but her security team did not give time. She was rushed to the Old Tejgaon airport to fly out

Ex-PM moved to safe house in Delhi-NCR

Sheikh Hasina was moved to a safe location within the Delhi-NCR region, sources said. She wanted to fly to London, but her demand not to be tried in the UK for alleged rights violations, was not accepted

Indian cultural centre, four temples attacked

Mob vandalised the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre located in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area on Monday. Four Hindu temples were also targeted. The temples suffered minor damage, a community leader said

Train, air services to Dhaka suspended

Indian Railways supended all train services, including freight operations, between India and Bangladesh indefinitely. Air India and IndiGo cancelled scheduled flights to and from Dhaka with immediate effect

Bangladesh protesters celebrate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation in Dhaka on Monday | AP

TIMELINE

10-11 am: Protests begin in various parts of Dhaka

2 pm: Mobile internet restored

2.30 pm: A military chopper with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina takes off

3-3.30 pm: Protesters storm Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official residence

3.25 pm: Hasina has resigned, says Bangaldesh Army chief Waqar-uz-Zaman

4 pm: Awami League's Dhaka office set on fire

5.36 pm: Plane carrying Hasina lands at Hindon Air Base, near Delhi

FLEES TO INDIA

PEOPLE'S POWER PURGES HASINA

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

BANGLADESH's longest-serving prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday resigned and fled the country amid violent protests against her government, bringing an end to her 15-year rule. The move came after around 300 people were killed in the past two weeks during clashes between protesters and security forces.

Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman said the Army has taken over and an interim government would be formed.

According to sources, Sheikh Hasina, 76, left Dhaka on Monday afternoon on a chopper and reached Tripura's capital Agartala. From there, an Indian Air Force aircraft took her to the Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad on the outskirts of Delhi.

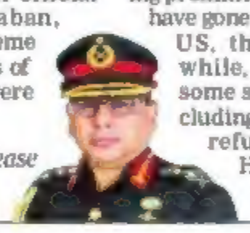
From Delhi, Hasina plans to reach Belarus or Finland on a chartered flight, it is learnt. However, she will stay back in Delhi for a day or two. Hasina is said to have made huge investments in Belarus.

Soon after she landed in Hindon on Monday, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval visited Hasina. Later, Doval attended a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and briefed him about the unfolding situation. The meeting was also attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Earlier in the day, unruly mobs in Bangladesh went on a rampage after news spread that Hasina resigned. Her official residence Ganabhaban, Parliament, the Supreme Court, and the offices of some media outlets were ransacked and looted. Even the police headquarters was not spared as violent mobs burned down the building, forcing the Police Commissioner to escape on a helicopter.

In view of the volatile situation, India has issued an advisory for its nationals in Bangladesh and asked them to exercise caution. Meanwhile, the BSF has beefed up patrolling around the India-Bangladesh border.

According to some political observers in Dhaka, the dramatic way with which the protests — which began as an agitation against a job quota scheme but quickly morphed into a mass movement demanding Hasina's ouster — shows the involvement of a hand, probably the US. Hasina's growing proximity to China may not have gone down well with the US, they argue. Meanwhile, reports say that some senior officials, including judges, have taken refuge in the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. P9, 11



I'm taking all responsibility (of the country). Please cooperate — Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman

The interim govt, with leaders from all political parties barring Awami League, will run the country for now — under army's supervision

Professor Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah

Khaleda Zia released

Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin ordered the release of opposition leader and former PM Khaleda Zia from jail

Uncertainty rules

FIRST PERSON

ANINDO BANERJEE @ Dhaka

THE situation was turning volatile as the day began. From my accommodation in an upscale Dhaka locality, I could see thousands of youths thronging the streets since morning. They stormed Ganabhaban, the prime minister's residence, and took their spoils of war with whoops of joy.

Others projected the war outwards and took on everything that came their way, looting shops and ransacking houses — their own country became like Rome to the Vandals. The only certitude was that the regime had collapsed, otherwise uncertainty reigned. Even at the basic level of the idea of Bangladesh: protesters were, after all, even going for the statue of its architect, 'Banga Bandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, with hammer blows.

Is history being rewritten — or even unwritten — for this small nation, no stranger as it is to juntas and assassinations? I could see a strange irony playing out: a moment of joy for a whole mass of people out there, and yet streaked through with contrary emotions like despair and doubt.

The Army chief says he has spoken to all parties, barring the deposed Awami League, and his words signal at an interim government. Yet, perhaps he too has little clarity about how events will unfold.

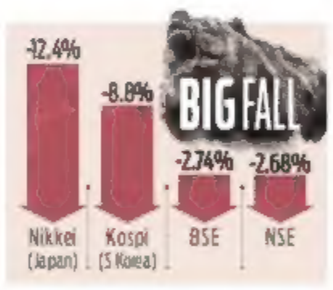
I have been in Dhaka — the city of mosques and muslin — for one-and-half years. Of late, the city has resembled a northern Indian city of the early '90s, roiled by the anti-Mandal agitation. This too started as an anti-quota protest.

But its joyous climax has descended ominously into chaos — which comes in to fill the gap at all points when authority collapses. On Sunday, more than 100, including cops, had died across the country. Monday being the 'Long March' day, I was afraid a lot of blood would be spilt on Dhaka streets. Fortunately that didn't happen.

Protesters vandalise the statue of Mujibur Rahman in Dhaka on Monday

Market crash wipes out ₹15 lakh crore

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi



MIRRORING the meltdown in key markets worldwide, India's equity markets on Monday fell sharply, wiping out investor wealth to the tune of ₹15 lakh crore. The overall market cap of the firms listed on the BSE slipped to ₹442 lakh crore from ₹457 lakh crore in the previous session.

Several factors came into play in pulling down the Indian markets. These included concerns related to an appreciating Japanese Yen and its impact on the global economy, looming fears of the US sliding into a recession, rising tensions in West Asia, and India Inc giving below-par earnings results in the June quarter.

On Monday, the BSE Sensex nose-dived 2,222 points or 2.74% to close at a month's low of 78,759.40. At one point during the session, the index plunged more than 3% to hit the day's low of 78,295.

The NSE Nifty50, too, cracked 662 points or 2.68% to settle at 24,055. It plunged as much as 3.33% to hit the day's low of 23,893. The broader market underperformed the benchmarks, with the Nifty Midcap 100 and Smallcap 100 indices falling by around 3.55% and 4.57%, respectively.

'Depressed' CCB inspector ends life

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A police inspector attached to the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) allegedly ended his life in Kaggalipura police limits on the outskirts of the city on Sunday night.

The body of Thimmegowda, 53, was found hanging from a tree at a farm in Thagachaguppe near Kumbalagodu on Monday morning. Passersby, who saw the body, alerted the police. Family issues are suspected to be the reason for Thimmegowda taking the extreme step.

Thimmegowda, who hailed from Karlahalli near Channapatna, lived in a rented house in Bidadi. His family members live in Mysuru. Thimmegowda was transferred to CCB two months ago from Bidadi police station.

He was Attibele police inspector when a major fire broke out at a crackers shop on service road near the toll gate in October last year. Fifteen people died in the blaze. Thimmegowda was suspended for granting permission to renew the shop's licence. After his suspension, he is said to have slipped into depression.

A case of unnatural death has been registered by Kaggalipura police. Further investigations are on.

Will give job to Yadgir SI's wife: Dr G

Bengaluru: Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara said on Monday that the state government will give a job to the wife of Yadgir PSI Parashuram, who died under mysterious circumstances on Saturday, on compassionate grounds. He told reporters here that he will visit Parashuram's house in Koppal on Wednesday. The case has been transferred to CID. "We are expecting the postmortem report soon. Once we receive it, we will know the reasons for the SI's death," he said. Along with the job, compensation will also be given to Parashuram's wife. "We have discussed this with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah," he said. ENS

EXPRESS READ

Indian shooters qualify for bronze medal round

Chateauroux: Indian shooters Maheshwari Chauhan and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka made it to the bronze medal round in the skeet mixed team event at the Paris Olympics on Monday. Shuttler Lakshya Sen crashed out against Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in the bronze play-off | P17

PM says Art 370 abrogation a 'watershed' moment

New Delhi: On the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday described the step as a watershed moment in the nation's history that started a new era of progress in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Nagendra, Daddal not in SIT chargesheet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is probing the multi-crore scam in Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, filed a 3,072-page preliminary chargesheet before a city court on Monday.

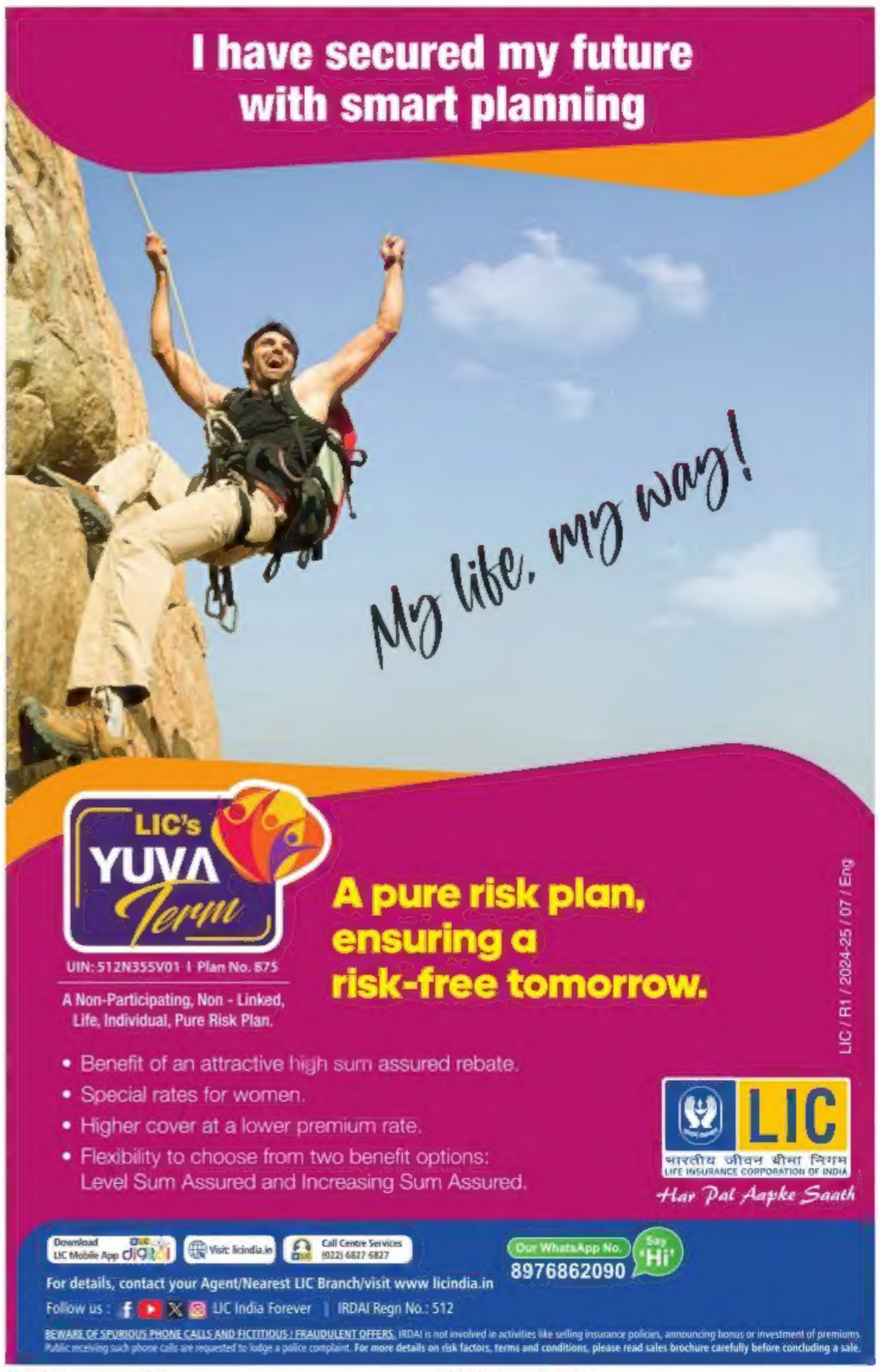
The SIT, which has named 12 people as accused, has, however, not named former tribal welfare minister B Nagendra and Raichur Rural MLA Basanagouda Daddal, chairman of the corporation, in its chargesheet.

While Nagendra was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, which found incriminating evidence against him related to handling of funds of the corporation found at his house and at the residences of Daddal and their acquaintances, the SIT has not made him an accused. Nagendra is now in judicial custody.

In his death note, the corporation's accounts superintendent, Chandrashekaran P, had mentioned about the transfer of funds on the orders of a minister. Based on this, Nagendra and Daddal were quizzed by SIT for long hours. The SIT arrested Nekkunte Nagaraj and his brother-in-law Nageshwar Rao, both associates of Nagendra, and named them as accused in the scam.

The chargesheet was submitted before the third Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Court. P5

The ST corporation scam led to the resignation of Nagendra as tribal welfare minister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